

# National Association of County Veterans Service Officers



## Special Benefits

# Special Benefits

- **Dental Care**
- **Prosthetics – Medical Equipment**
- **Clothing Allowance**
- **Prosthetics – Hearing Aids and Glasses**
- **Automobile Adaptive Equipment**
- **Housing Grants**
- **CHAMPVA**
- **Women Veterans Services**
- **Military Sexual Trauma Services**
- **Spina Bifida & Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Benefits**
- **Bereavement Counseling**
- **Blind Veterans Services**
- **Temporary Healthcare**
- **Homeless Programs**
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**

# Dental Care

Will be provided on an outpatient basis under the following conditions:

- to 100% service-connected veterans
- receives service-connected compensation for a dental condition or disability
- was a prisoner of war, with no distinctions based on length of captivity
- is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program

# Dental Insurance

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ADD SLIDE ABOUT DENTAL INSURANCE

SEE VA FACT SHEET IN MISC FOLDER

# Prosthetics

## (Medical Equipment)

- **Veterans enrolled in the VA Healthcare System**

- vets the VA is “caring for” -

VA will provide any medically necessary prosthetic appliances, equipment, and devices

- i.e., artificial limbs, orthopedic braces, shoes, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and other durable medical equipment and supplies

- **Veterans not enrolled in the VA Healthcare System**

- Service-connected vets who don't get their care at the VA
- Veterans service-connected at 50% or more

VA will provide prosthetic items for the service-connected disability only

# Clothing Allowance(s)

- For service-connected conditions
- Required use of orthopedic or prosthetic appliance(s) – such as wheelchair, back brace, knee brace, etc.
- Topical Medication, e.g., for a skin condition
- Apply annually to VA Medical Center
  - Unless permanent in nature
- Paid annually in August

# Prosthetics – Hearing Aids and Glasses

## “discretionary funding”

- receiving compensation for any condition
- receiving HB or A&A benefits
- former prisoners of war
- Otherwise, only in special circumstances, and not for “normally occurring” hearing or vision loss

# Automobile Adaptive Equipment

- A one time payment toward the purchase and adaptation of a vehicle \*\*
- Not more than \$19,505 (10-01-12)
- Pays for the purchase of adaptive equipment and for equipment repair, replacement, or reinstallation
- Apply at the VAMC where enrolled

## Eligibility for Service-Connected Veterans

- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands or feet
- Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a certain degree
- Ankylosis (immobility) of one or both knees or one or both hips



# Housing Grants

...a little confusing

Referred to as “Specially Adapted Housing Grants” and/or “HISA Grants” -  
not quite correct

## Three basic grants:

1. Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)
2. Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA)
3. Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Grant (HISA)

# Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)

## \$63,780

Up to \$63,780 or up to 50% of the cost of:

- Building
- Buying
- Remodeling an already-adapted house
- Paying on the loan of a previously purchased house
- Active duty members, 1151 veterans, and IU veterans are eligible too
- VA 26-4555

# \$63,780 Grant Eligibility

(may be referred to by the VA as a Paraplegic Housing, or “PH”, Grant)

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities
- Blindness in both eyes with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity and residuals of disease or injury, or  
Loss or loss of use of one upper extremity that affects balance or propulsion
  - Key Phrase for these is - “precludes locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair”
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities so as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbow

# Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA) \$12,756

Actual cost up to \$12,756

- To adapt the veteran's existing house
- To help pay for an already-adapted house
- **ONLY** for veterans
  - Blind in both eyes (5/200 or less)
  - Loss of both hands (or LOU)
- Active duty members and 1151 veterans are eligible; IU vets are not eligible
- VA 26-4555

If veteran is eligible for both the SAH and the SHA – can only get the SAH

# Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Grant (HISA)

Home improvements for:  
continuation of treatment, or  
access to the home and  
essential lavatory and sanitary facilities

Can get both HISA and SAH or SHA grant

\$4100 for service-connected (lifetime)

\$1200 for non-service-connected

VA 10-0103

# Recent Changes in Housing Grants

- Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)
  - No longer a 'one-time' benefit
  - Can be used 'up to' three times
  - Total grants however cannot exceed \$63,780
- Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA)
  - No longer a 'one-time' benefit
  - Can be used 'up to' three times
  - Total grants cannot exceed \$12,756
- See 38 USC 2101 and 2102

# CHAMPVA

## “Civilian Health and Medical Program – VA”

A ‘cost-sharing’ program similar to TriCare

Services provided by local providers with bills going to CHAMPVA (Health Administration Center, Denver, CO)

VA pays 75% of ‘allowable fee’

There are annual deductibles for outpatient services  
- \$50 pp, \$100 per family

Services “may” be provided at VA facilities; if so, there is no charge

# CHAMPVA - Eligibility

## Dependent Spouse and Children

Veteran rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability

## Surviving Spouse and Children

- Service member who died on active duty (no misconduct)
- Veteran died of a service-connected disability, or who was, at the time death, rated permanently and totally disabled for service-connected condition(s)
- After February 4, 2003 – surviving spouse over age 55 who remarries retains eligibility
- Child in school who becomes disabled during a break or vacation period

No misconduct

Results in inability to continue

Remains eligible for

Six-months after disability if removed  
23<sup>rd</sup> birthday

Two-years after disability occurred  
Whichever is first

## Cannot be eligible for TRICARE

If they're eligible for TriCare, they must use TriCare



# CHAMPVA for Life (CFL)(2001)

## CHAMPVA and Medicare Entitlement

Dates to remember...June 5, 2001 and October 1, 2001

65 on or after June 5, 2001

- Enrolled in BOTH Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B
- Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Parts A and B (and other Medicare plans)
- For services received on or after October 1, 2001

# CHAMPVA for Life (CFL)(2001)

## CHAMPVA and Medicare Entitlement

65 or older prior to June 5, 2001

- 1) Entitled to Medicare Part A and NOT purchased Medicare Part B
  - Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Part A and any other health insurance
- 2) Entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B
  - Must keep both A and B
  - Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Parts A and B and any other health insurance
- For services received on or after October 1, 2001

# Women Veterans Services

- The same medical benefit package as male veterans - PLUS gender-specific health care

Such as

- hormone replacement therapy
- breast care
- gynecological care
- maternity care
- limited infertility treatment (excludes in-vitro fertilization)

Additionally...

- A Sexual Trauma Treatment Center affiliated with the Women's Clinic
  - treatment for the psychological effects of sexual trauma
- Contact the Women Veterans Coordinator at your VA health care facility



# Military Sexual Trauma Counseling

- Counseling and treatment to help veterans overcome psychological trauma resulting from sexual trauma while serving on active duty
- Care for physical conditions resulting from the traumatic event including medications
- Veterans will receive care at no charge for conditions related to military sexual trauma
- Contact the Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator or Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical facility

# Spina Bifida for Children of Vietnam Veterans

**1997 by Public Law 104-204**

- **Service in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975**
- **Provides**
  - **a monthly benefit**
  - **vocational rehabilitation and training**
  - **healthcare**
- **Administered by the VA's Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado**
- **Claims still filed through your local Regional Office**

# Spina Bifida for Children of Certain Veterans who served in Korea

**2003 by Public Law 108-183**

**Extended Spina Bifida benefits to the natural child of a service member who served in or near the demilitarized zone in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.**

**“The veteran must have served in the active military, naval or air service in or near the Korean demilitarized zone...and is determined by the VA to have been exposed to a herbicide agent during such service.”**

# Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV)

- A monthly benefit - same as spina bifida rates
- Training and vocational rehabilitation (if practical)
- A “Fee-for-Service” healthcare program
- Biological Children
- Service in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- A list, “including, but not limited to,” is at 38 CFR 3.815

CWVV is administered by the VA's Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado

# Spina Bifida and CWVV Benefits

- Are not dependent on the veteran's character of service
- Do not affect other VA benefits
- May be paid directly to the child
- Healthcare is typically provided by local, non-VA providers; the bills are submitted to the VA



# Bereavement Counseling

- **Veterans and their family members**
  - If they are receiving VA health care benefits
- **Also...**
- **Spouse, children, and parents of service members who die on active duty**
- **Family members of Reserve Component and National Guard members who die on duty**
- **Counseling is provided at Vet Centers**
- **Call 800-827-1000 for the nearest Vet Center**
- **[www.va.gov/rcs/](http://www.va.gov/rcs/)**

# Blind Veterans Services

- Services at all VA Medical Centers
  - Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator
- Aids and services include:
  - A total health and benefits review by a VIST team
  - “Adjustment to Blindness” training
  - Structural adaptations (alterations) to existing houses
  - Specially Adapted Housing Grants (for a new house)
  - Low vision aids and training in their use

# Blind Veterans Services - cont

- **Electronic and mechanical aids such as**
  - **adaptive computers**
  - **computer-assisted devices such as reading machines**
  - **electronic travel aids**
- **Guide dogs, including the expense of training the veteran to use the dog and the cost of the dog's medical care**
- **Talking books, tapes and Braille literature**
- **Blindness does not have to be service-connected**

# Combat Veteran Eligibility for Temporary VA Healthcare

- **Service after November 11, 1998**
- **Service in a “Theater of Combat Operations against a hostile force”**
- **Cost-free care for conditions ‘potentially’ related to combat**
- **Five years**
- **Assigned Priority Group 6 (unless higher due to other factors)**
- **Establish status with VA Enrollment Coordinator with**
  - **DD 214 indicating service in a designated combat theater of operations; or**
  - **Afghanistan Campaign Medal**  
**Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**  
**Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal**  
**(does not include Global War on Terrorism Service Medal)**  
**Southwest Asia Campaign Medal; or**
  - **Iraq Campaign Medal**  
**Kosovo Campaign Medal**
  - **Proof of receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay (commonly referred to as “combat pay”) after November 11, 1998; or**
  - **Proof of Federal tax exemption for receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay**

# Homeless Programs

**Special programs and initiatives to help homeless veterans live as independently as possible**

**VA's goal is to offer a “continuum of services”**

- **outreach to veterans living on the streets and in shelters who otherwise would not seek assistance**
- **clinical assessment and referral to needed medical treatment for physical and psychiatric disorders including substance abuse**
- **long-term “sheltered transitional assistance”, case management, and rehabilitation**
- **Employment assistance**
- **supported permanent housing**

# Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Chapter 31

“VetSuccess”

Special Training Program for  
Service-Connected Disabled  
Veterans

# Vocational Rehabilitation

- 48 month entitlement
- 12 years for completion - date of separation or date of award, whichever is later
- Veteran must be evaluated to determine whether program is feasible based on various factors
- Counseling and other services remain following course completion

# Vocational Rehabilitation

- To overcome employment handicaps
- Counseling, testing and monitoring
- Pays for employment services, school costs, and provides a monthly subsistence allowance
- Medical care/post completion assistance
- Provided by local Regional Office



# Vocational Rehabilitation

- Training and job assistance
- Rated 20% or more with an employment handicap
- Rated 10% or more with a serious employment handicap

# Vocational Rehabilitation

## Rates for Subsistence Allowance

(Based on full-time attendance)

(October 1, 2011)

• No Dependents	\$566.97
• One Dependent	\$703.28
• Two Dependents	\$828.76
• Each Additional Dependent	\$ 60.41

# Vocational Rehabilitation Forms

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21-22 Appointment of Veterans  
Service Organization

28-1900 Application for Vocational  
Rehabilitation

# "VetSuccess"

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New name for the VR & E programs

New website - [www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov)